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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT 1

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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UNIFORMS, INSIGNIA AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY (C)

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Summary: This report contains detailed information on uniforms, insignia and individual equipment issued to members of the Czechoslovak Army. Information and descriptions on special uniforms and individual equipment are also given.

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## UNIFORMS, INSIGNIA AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY (C)

## Introduction

This report contains detailed descriptions of uniforms and equipment issued in the Czechoslovak Army [redacted] Included are descriptions of special uniforms and equipment [redacted]

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1. Assignment of Quartermaster Officers

[redacted] there were no quartermaster (intendence) officers assigned to units below regimental level. During peace time, battalion headquarters usually had only a small staff, which did not include a quartermaster officer. Since this was the standard organization of the Czechoslovak Army, unit supply personnel went directly to regimental warehouses to draw and exchange supply items. [redacted]

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2. Basic Issue for Conscripts

## a. General

When a conscript reported for active duty, he was issued most of the items needed for military life. As items wore out or were used up, it was up to the conscript to replace them. Clothing items were replaced by the Army at the end of a prescribed period, but this period was so long that it was possible for a conscript to be issued the same field pack used by his father during his training. It cost 1200 koruny to clothe and equip a new conscript. [redacted]

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## b. Basic Issue

Each conscript was issued the following items when he reported for active duty:

- 1 dress uniform (new)
- 1 field uniform (usually a dress uniform that had been previously worn for 2 years by another conscript).
- 1 work uniform (usually a field uniform which had been previously worn for 2 years by another conscript).
- 3 pairs of shoes

[redacted] the combination issue was 2 pairs of boots and 1 pair of garrison shoes or 1 pair of boots and 2 pairs of garrison shoes.

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- 1 toothbrush

- 1 pair of gloves

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3 shoebrushes  
    1 for paste polish  
    1 for dusting shoes and boots  
    1 polishing brush  
1 clothesbrush  
1 sewing kit  
1 cake of shaving soap (to last 3 months)  
1 comb  
1 knife  
1 fork  
1 spoon  
1 linen bag for knife, fork and spoon  
2 kitchen towels  
1 messkit  
1 linen cover for messkit  
1 dress overcoat  
1 field coat  
2 garrison caps  
    1 for dress  
    1 for field duty  
2 leather belts  
3 shoulder straps  
1 shelter half  
3 tent pins (either wood or metal)  
1 belt buckle  
6 handkerchiefs  
4 shirts  
2 ties  
2 pairs of socks  
1 entrenching tool  
5 pairs of summer foot wrappers

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2 pairs of winter foot wrappers

2 pairs of winter drawers

3 pairs of summer drawers

2 pairs of athletic shorts

3 nightgowns

2 linen for summer

1 flannel for winter

3 summer undershirts

2 winter undershirts

1 winter shirt

2 hand towels

2 cleaning rags

1 cake GI soap every 2 weeks

1 field pack

1 utility pack

1 gas mask

1 first aid kit

2 blankets

1 steel helmet

c. Items Not Issued

The following items were not included in the basic issue to conscripts:

tent pole

razor

toothpaste

bath towel

3. Personal and Uniform Items

a. Caps

(1) General

In the Czechoslovak Army three types of caps were issued: garrison caps, service caps and fur-lined pile caps. There were nine different size groups,

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## (2) Garrison (field cap)(see Figures 1 and 2, Annex A)

The garrison cap was worn for most field duty. When it was not worn, steel helmets were worn. It was made of the same material as the uniform and if possible from the same bolt of cloth, rough-looking (Shetland cloth) with a cross-weave which could be plainly seen when it became threadbare. The color was olive drab with a green tint.

Each enlisted man was issued two garrison caps when he reported for active duty. One, new, was for dress and parades. The other, 2 years old or older, was for field training and garrison wear.

Two types of garrison caps were issued: Type 20 and 21. Type 20, the old style (20 cm high at the highest point), was still in use and was to be issued until existing stocks were exhausted. Type 21, the newer style, was 21 cm high at the highest point.

The garrison cap was usually worn by everyone for field training, for duty and dress by conscripts, and in garrison by reserve officers on short tours of active duty.

The Czechoslovak crest was always worn on the right side, centered approximately 1 or 2 cm back from the front edge. All enlisted personnel had it on their garrison caps. For officers it was optional to wear either the crest or a red star insignia with the garrison cap (see Annex B). Because of poor officer-EM relations in the Czechoslovak Army, officers usually wore the crest in order to create a closer relationship with the EM, since they were thus more difficult to distinguish from the enlisted men at a distance.

The braid of the garrison cap was approximately 3 mm wide and was the same material and color as the cap.

The crown of the cap was very stiff, so it would not gap open or bend. To prevent the cap from bending, the center third of the peak was sewn closed. A soldier was not permitted to remove this stitching. The cap was lined with a regular lining material and had a leather sweat band.

## (3) Service

## (a) General (see Figure 1, Annex C)

Officers and professional NGO's were issued flannel or gabardine service caps and other enlisted personnel were issued Shetland cloth service caps. Women in the Czechoslovak Army were allowed to wear either the service cap or garrison cap. Usually they chose to wear the garrison cap because it was easier to pin on. Reserve officers on active duty for training did not receive a service cap, but a garrison cap. [redacted] the border guard and interior troops had service caps.

[redacted] Students at reserve officers' schools were also issued service caps. Most service caps were Type-52; the 52 designated the year of manufacture.

The service cap was worn squarely on the head with the visor approximately two fingers above the eyebrows. It was to be worn as it came from the factory without any alterations. Officers were required to have a wire frame inside the cap at all times to keep it in shape; a rubber frame was not permitted. The regimental commander checked this personally [redacted]

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## (b) Insignia (see Figures 1 and 2, Annex B)

The cap insignia for the service cap, for everyone regardless of grade, was a red star 5 cm high with a lion 1.8 mm in height superimposed on it. Officers wore the red star with a gold lion superimposed. EM wore a red star with a silver lion. The star was made of a light metal enameled to a thickness of 4 mm at the center, including the thickness of the lion. There was no colored border around the outer edge of the star.

## (c) Cap band

The band of the service cap was approximately 4 to 5 cm wide and varied in color according to branch of service. The service cap worn by regular army personnel had an OD top and cap band; the service cap worn by interior troops had a blue top, red braid and violet hat band, and the border guards wore a service cap with a green top and green cap band.

## (d) Buttons

The buttons on the sides of the service cap for enlisted personnel were either black leather or plastic, approximately 8 mm in diameter, and did not have a design superimposed. Officers and professional NCO's wore bronze buttons of the same size, but with superimposed crossed bayonets.

## (e) Visor (see Figure 2, Annex C)

The service cap for general officers had a set of seven gold linden leaves on the visor. The largest leaf was exactly centered, with three smaller ones on each side of it. The visor was approximately 5 cm wide at the widest point on all service caps.

## (f) Leather straps and cords

The leather strap across the front of the service caps for enlisted personnel was approximately 6 to 7 mm wide. It was black leather for conscripts and brown leather for career NCO's.

Officers assigned to a combat arm wore a gold cord instead of the leather strap, and officers assigned to other than combat units wore a silver cord.

## (4) Pile (see Figure 3, Annex C)

The pile cap was of a light-weight canvas material with lining, ear flaps, and visor of fur, believed to be rabbit fur imported from the USSR. [ ] the caps were manufactured in Czechoslovakia because the stitching was uniquely Czechoslovak. These caps were new since 1955 with the Czechoslovak Army and could be worn only when ordered by the unit commander. The red star insignia was worn on the visor of the pile cap by all personnel.

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## b. Shoulderboards

## (1) Officers (see Figure 1, Annex D)

Officers had both dress and field shoulderboards. The dress shoulderboards were stiff and had branch of service stripes plus a border piping of the same color. They also bore the appropriate number of gold stars for combat

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arms and silver stars for other branches to designate the rank of the wearer. The stars worn by field grade officers were larger than those worn by company grade officers. Branch of service insignia, gold for combat officers, was worn approximately 1 cm from the gold or silver button, with a crossed-bayonet design. The top of the insignia pointed toward the shoulder.

The color of the stripes and borders on the officers' dress shoulderboards varied according to branch of service, as did the color of the enlisted shoulderboards. They were as follows:

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Armor - Black or red. (An armor battalion attached to an infantry regiment wore red. An armor battalion attached to a tank regiment wore black.)

Artillery - Black or red (same as armor)

Chemical - Black

Engineers - Black

Infantry - Brick red

Quartermaster - Black or red (same as armor)

Medical - Brown or black (Source was uncertain)

Mechanized Troops - Red

Ordnance - Bright red

Paratroops - Red

Signal - Black

Transport Troops - Brown

Officers on field duty wore OD shoulderboards with darker OD stripes. The branch of service insignia and stars worn on the field shoulderboards were probably OD, bakelite which made them difficult to recognize from a distance of more than five meters.

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## (2) Enlisted (see Figure 2, Annex D)

Enlisted personnel wore a reversible shoulderboard with OD on one side for field wear and a branch of service color on the other side for dress and parades. The branch of service colors used on enlisted shoulderboards were as follows:

<u>Branch Color</u>	<u>Piping</u>
Infantry - Brick red	Black
Mechanized - Brick red	Black
Paratroops - Brick red	Black
Engineer - Black	Black

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Artillery - Black	Garmine red
Signal - Black	Light blue
Armor - Black	Brick red
Air Force - Blue	Dark blue
Rear Services - Brown	Brick red
Medical - Brown	Brown
Auxiliary Technical Troops - Black	None

Gold branch of service insignia was worn from 1 to 2 cm from the shoulder edge of the shoulderboard. NCO's wore stripes on their shoulderboards denoting their rank. The narrow stripes were 7 to 8 mm wide and were spaced the width of a stripe apart. The wide stripes for senior NCO's were approximately 3.5 to 4 cm in width. Red or black stripes only were worn by all branches; however, in combat only black were worn.

Professional senior NCO's of a combat arm wore gold stripes on their shoulderboards and members of non-combat units wore silver stripes. Officer-candidates wore shoulderboards like those of regular enlisted personnel. The wide stripes on the shoulderboards of the officer-candidates denoted the number of years the individual had been a candidate.

#### c. Lapel Patches

##### (1) Officers (see Figure 3, Annex D)

Generally officers did not have lapel patches on their field uniforms, but wore them only on their dress uniforms for off duty or parades. They were the same color as the background color of the shoulderboard with a superimposed mace (palice).

##### (2) Professional NCO's and Cadets (see Figure 4, Annex D)

Lapel patches worn on the dress uniforms of professional NCO's and cadets were the same as those of the officers, but without the mace.

##### (3) Reserve Officers and Conscripts

The uniform worn by conscripts and reserve officers on short periods of active duty did not have a lapel patch.

#### d. Trousers

Two types of trousers were issued to conscripts: Type 20 and 21.. Type 20 was OD with a dark brown tint and had a small outside pocket in the front. Type 21 trousers were also OD, but with a dark green tint and no pocket in front. These two shades were quite hard to distinguish from a distance, but when they were close together the difference was noticeable.

#### e. Foot Wrappers

Foot wrappers were 35 x 35 cm and when issued were white. After wear and washing, the color changed to a dark grey.

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## f. Underwear

Issued summer and winter underwear had long sleeves and long legs. The legs were not tight.

## g. Eating Utensils

The knife, fork and spoon were made of the best stainless steel available. These items could be taken home with the conscript after he completed basic training.

4. Markings and Replacement Factors of Issued Items

## a. Sizing and Marking

Before issue, all used items were cleaned and sized at the regimental warehouse. A sizing chart was used to determine the sizes of clothing to be issued to each man (see Figure 1, Annex E). If a soldier was between 1.6 and 1.8 m tall and weighed between 68 and 76 kg, his size was 2B. The smallest size clothing issued was 1A, which was for a soldier between 1.5 and 1.65 m tall and weighing between 50 and 58 kg. The largest size issued was 3C, for a soldier between 1.8 and 1.9 m tall and weighing between 80 and 90 kg. The size markings consisted of the number 1, 2 or 3, about 2 mm wide and 1.3 mm high, and a letter from A thru C of the same size (see figure 2, Annex E). These size markings were stenciled on the item with indelible black stencil ink. Blouses were marked on the inside pocket and trousers inside the fly or on the waistband in the back.

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When a conscript completed his active duty, all his clothing and equipment except two shirts, two sets of underwear, a tie, and knife, fork and spoon were turned in to the first sergeant, who turned all items over to a regimental warehouse for cleaning, classification and sizing.

## b. Boots and Shoes

In addition to the boots and shoes listed in 2d above, each soldier could have low quarter shoes for off-duty wear. They had to be lace type and have plain toes.

The boots issued were three-fourth length, with a strap around the heel and arch to keep them on tight (see Figure 3, Annex E). Soldiers complained about the boots because they were loose at the heel and caused many blisters. The men preferred garrison shoes. Until 1955 garrison shoes had hobnail soles, but in 1955 the Czechoslovak Army started to issue them with plain leather soles.

## c. Replacement Factors

items:  reclassification tables with wear-out periods on the following

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Winter coat	6 years
Dress uniform	2 years
Boots	3 years
Shoes	3 or 4 years
Garrison cap	1½ years

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Belt (wide)	12 years
Belt (narrow)	6 years
Shirts	2 years
Socks	2 years
Foot wrappers	2 years
Underwear	3 years
Nightgown	3 or 4 years
Field pack (calfskin)	20 years
Garrison caps	1½ years
They were reclassified to field caps or salvage every 1½ years; however, the normal wear-out period was 1½ years.	

All repairs on clothing and equipment were made at the regimental warehouse [redacted]

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#### d. Direct Exchange of Items

For the direct exchange of clothing and equipment, no requisition procedure was involved, since it was on item-for-item exchange. When a soldier had clothing which was worn out through fair wear and tear, he could exchange it with the first sergeant for a like item. The first sergeant would exchange the item at either the laundry or the regimental warehouse. The items authorized for direct exchange at the regimental warehouse varied monthly and were published monthly by the regimental quartermaster officer. Any item not on this list had to be exchanged at the laundry.

#### 5. Items on Hand at Company Supply

When a company wanted an increase or decrease in authorized equipment, a requisition had to be initiated by the first sergeant and countersigned by the company commander. This requisition was then approved or disapproved by the regimental quartermaster officer. If an increase was approved, immediate issue was made.

Items on hand in unit supply rooms were issued by the first sergeant to conscripts as needed. The following items were [redacted] on hand [redacted]

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- 18 uniforms (various sizes and conditions)
- 11 pairs of shoes (used)
- 12 pairs of boots (mostly larger sizes)
- 7 shirts (used)
- 12 ties
- 12 shovels (entrenching tools)
- 4 belts (wide)

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20 sets of underwear (summer and winter)  
6 field caps  
5 overcoats  
12 sets of bootstraps  
6 messkits  
20 blankets (approximate)  
27 pairs of chemical warfare gloves  
32 pairs of chemical warfare shoes  
35 sheets  
15 pillows  
4 canteens  
12 gas masks  
11 steel helmets  
8 field packs  
5 utility bags  
5 hand towels  
5 or 6 towels for cleaning messkits and utensils  
12 handkerchiefs  
8 shelter halves  
7 tent pins  
1 linen bag  
12 pairs of socks (approximate)  
4 pairs of grey cotton gloves  
10 range targets  
2 sighting targets  
11 pairs of field glasses

6. Special Uniforms and Equipment Items

a. Paratrooper Suits

[redacted] paratroopers from a long distance. Except for their camouflage suits, their uniforms were the same as the infantry. The camouflage

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uniform was a duck material and looked like coveralls with a hood

b. Quilted Uniform

the quilted uniform used by the Czechoslovak Army was of Soviet manufacture. These uniforms were kept in the regimental warehouse and only issued to companies during extremely cold weather for wear over the duty uniform. They were not believed to be water repellent (see Annex F).

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c. Field Packs

The Czechoslovak Army issued two types of field packs. One, manufactured in Czechoslovakia, was made of calfskin with the fur on the outside (see Figure 1, Annex G). They were approximately 50-60 cm high, 40-45 cm wide and 20-25 cm thick and had approximately a 20-year wear-out period. The other type, seen more frequently in the Czechoslovak Army (see Figures 2 and 3, Annex G), was received from Germany after World War II. It was canvas and approximately 45 to 55 cm wide, 50 to 60 cm high and 40 to 45 cm thick when filled. The shoulder straps were canvas, approximately 2 to 3 cm wide.

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This pack was filled with the following items:

Shoe polish

Underwear

Shirt

Candle

Box of matches

Stamped envelope (for notification of next of kin in case of emergency)

Knife

Fork

Spoon

Boots

Tent pins

Canteen

Messkit

Sewing kit

Buttons

Steel helmet

Entrenching tool

Handkerchiefs

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Over the top of the pack was a horseshoe roll, consisting of a shelter half and one or two blankets, or one blanket and an overcoat. There were loops on the sides of the pack to hold the roll in place (see Figure 3, Annex G).

#### d. Utility Pack

In addition to the regular field pack, a utility pack was issued (see Annex H). It was smaller than the field pack, was worn on the soldier's left side, and contained a first aid kit, shoe brushes and other personal items. The first aid kit contained only a pressure bandage to be used only for wounds.

#### e. Messkit

The messkit, made of heavy-gauge aluminum, was issued with a linen cover so that, when it was worn outside the pack, it would not reflect the sun (see Annex I). It consisted of two pieces: the lower part, of 1½-liter capacity, was used for potatoes, meat and vegetables, and the top, of 0.5-liter capacity, could be used for desserts or soups.

#### f. Shelter Halves

##### (1) General

Three types of shelter halves were issued in the Czechoslovak Army: German, Soviet and Czech. Each had its own shape, size and color, but they all also served as rain capes.

##### (2) German (see Figure 1, Annex J)

The German shelter half was the smallest of the three. Four sections made a small tent that would accommodate four men. The shelter halves were received at the end of World War II, but were still in use. They were not too practical for camouflage purposes because of their color combination, grass green with brown and yellow spots.

##### (3) Czechoslovak

Czech-manufactured shelter halves were not too durable because the material was too light and tore quite easily. They were a dull yellow, which was hard to conceal. [redacted]

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##### (4) Soviet (see Figure 2, Annex J)

The best shelter half of the three was the one from the USSR. Two of these were required to make a tent to accommodate two men. This shelter half lasted longer and was more water repellent than any of the others. The colors used in the camouflage were an even mixture of yellow, green and brown. For tactical purposes it was by far the best all-around shelter half.

#### g. Chemical Warfare Gloves

Chemical warfare gloves [redacted] were lightweight material, dark yellow, and impregnated against chemical gases. [redacted]

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h. Chemical Warfare Shoes

Chemical warfare shoes [redacted] were light-weight dark yellow material. The soles were black rubber without heels. The boots were three-fourth length and worn over regular boots. [redacted] The chemical warfare gloves and boots together did not weigh over one pound.

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Annex A

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SKETCHES OF CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY GARRISON CAP

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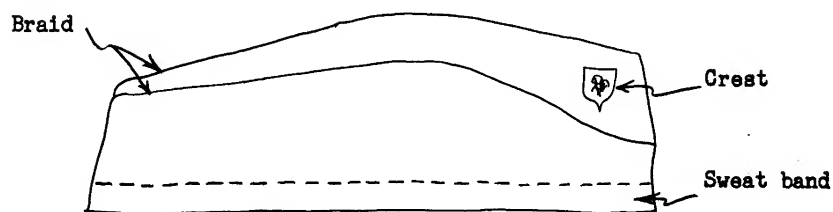


Figure 1  
Side View of Garrison Cap

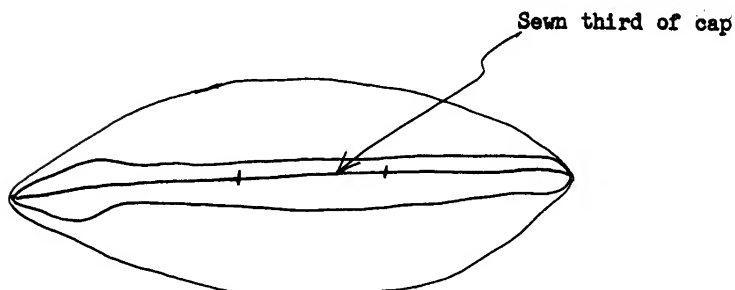


Figure 2  
Top View of Garrison Cap

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Annex B

SKETCH OF SERVICE CAP INSIGNIA, CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

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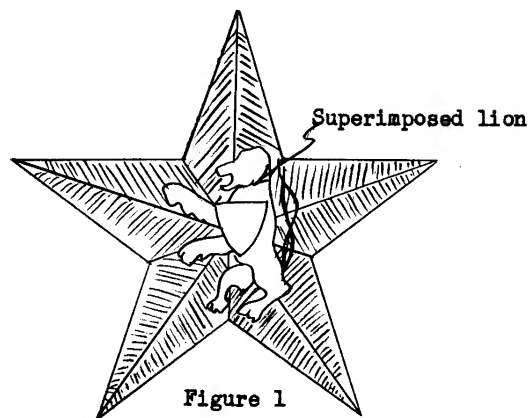


Figure 1

Cap Insignia for Service Cap

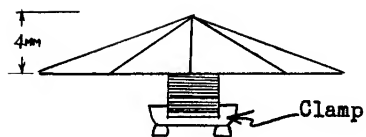


Figure 2

Side View of Service Cap Insignia

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Annex C

SKETCH OF OFFICER'S SERVICE CAP AND PILE CAP, CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

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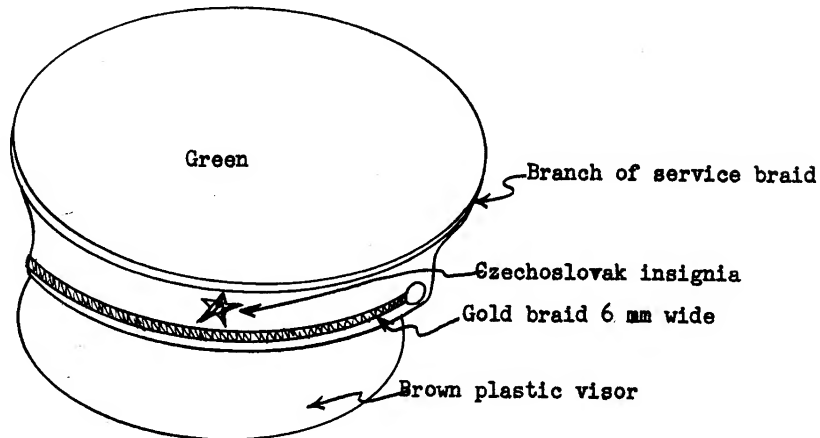


Figure 1

Front View of Officer's Service Cap for Other Than General Officer

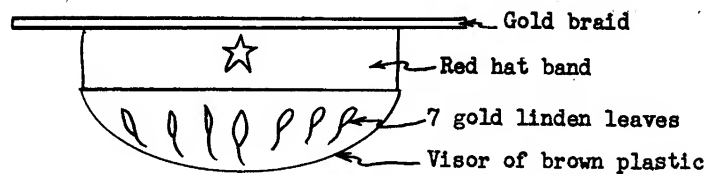


Figure 2

Front View of General Officer's Service Cap



Figure 3

Fur-lined Pile Cap

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## Annex D

SKETCH OF SHOULDERBOARDS AND LAPEL PATCHES, CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY 50X1-HUM

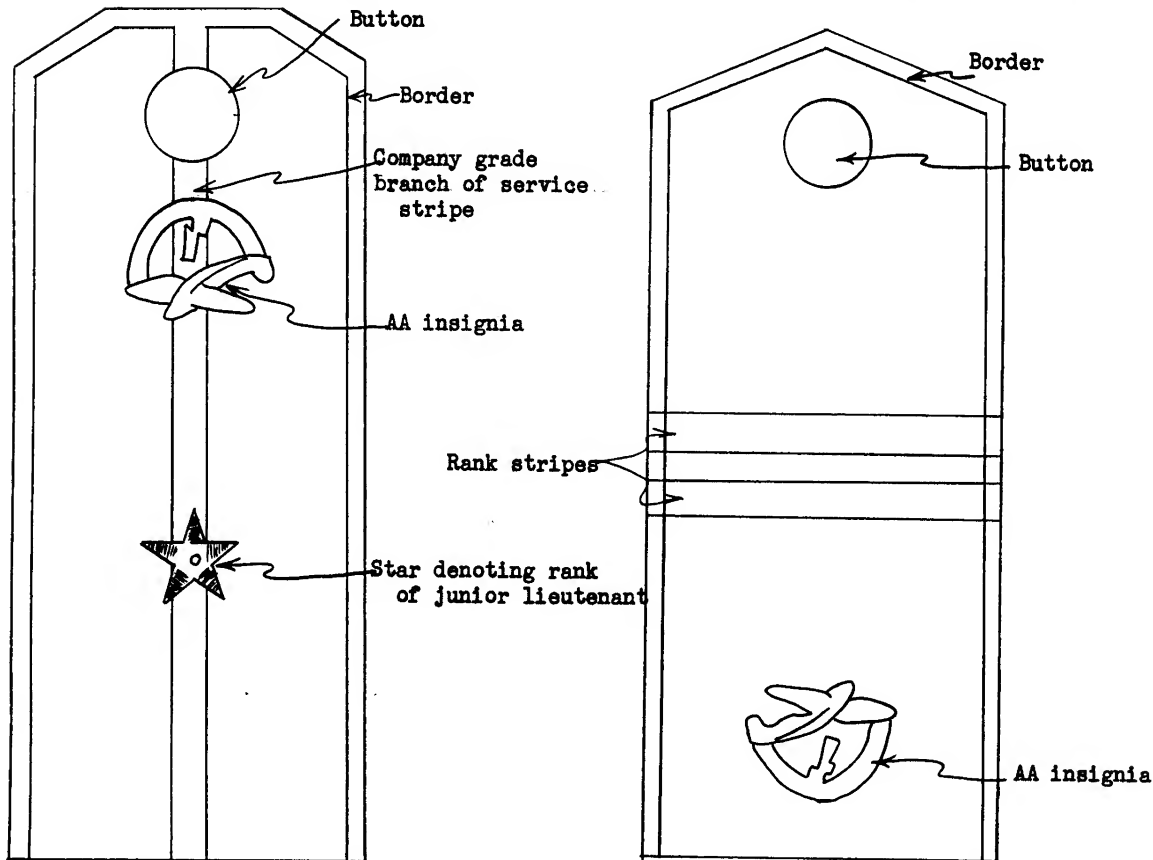
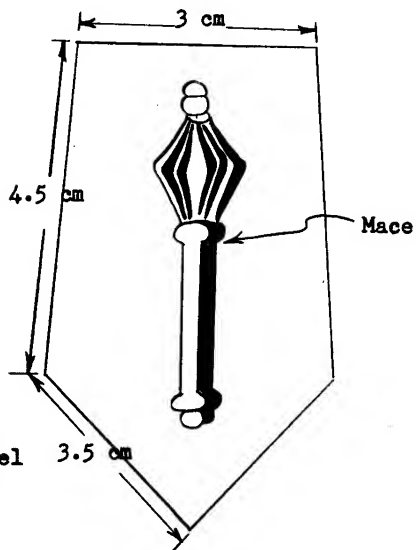
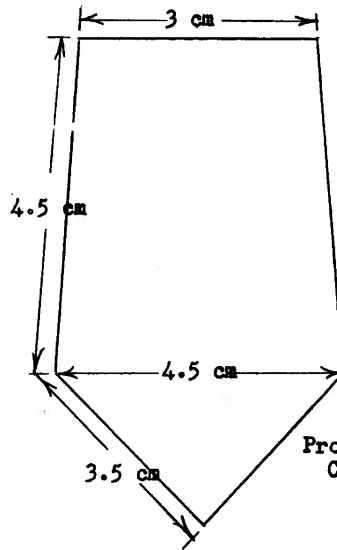


Figure 1

Officer's Shoulderboard

Figure 2

EM Shoulderboard

Figure 3  
Officer's Lapel  
PatchFigure 4  
Professional NCO and  
Cadet Lapel Patch

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Annex E

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SKETCH OF SIZE MARKINGS, SIZING CHARTS, AND BOOTS,  
CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

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Smallest size	Height in Meters	A	B	C	Largest size
		Weight	Weight	Weight	
	1. (1.5-1.65)	50-58 kg	58-66 kg	66-74 kg	
	2. (1.6-1.8)	60-68 kg	68-76 kg	76-85 kg	
	3. (1.8-1.9)	65-70 kg	70-80 kg	80-90 kg	

Figure 1

Czechoslovak Sizing Chart for Clothing Issue

2A

Figure 2

Size Marking

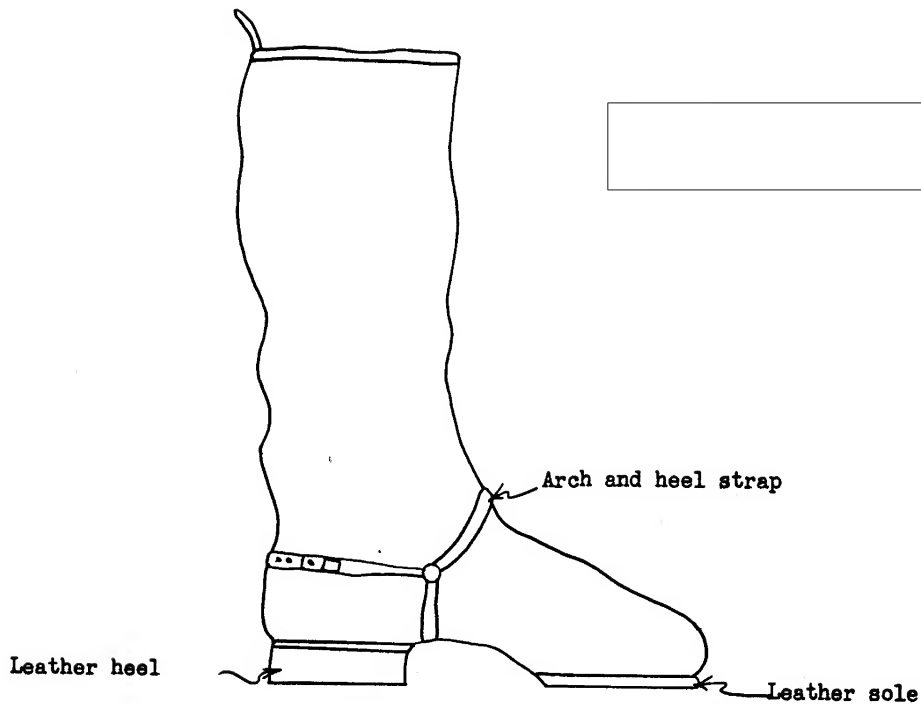


Figure 3

Czechoslovak Boot

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50X1-HUM

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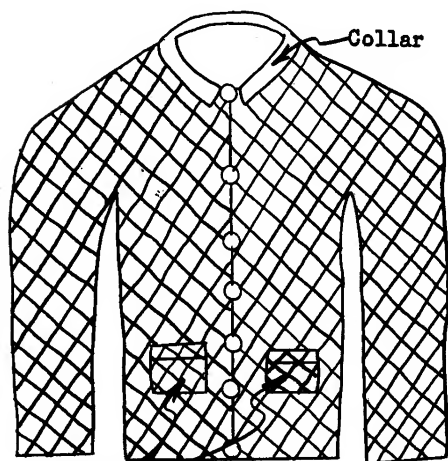
-22-

Annex F

SKETCH OF QUILTED UNIFORM, CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM



Pockets  
Figure 1  
Quilted Jacket

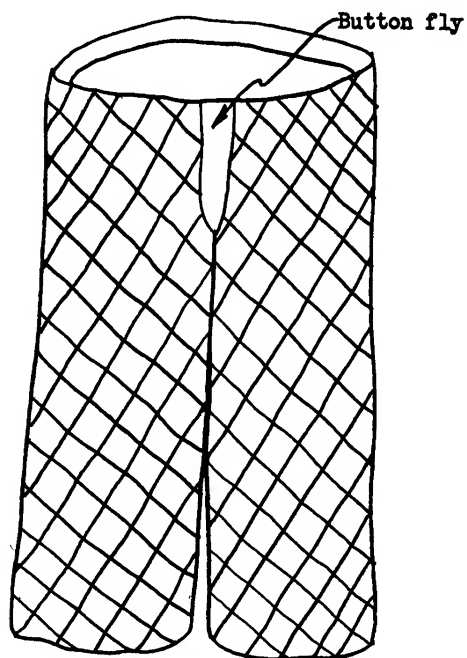


Figure 2  
Quilted Trousers

50X1-HUM

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Annex G

50X1-HUM

SKETCH OF FIELD PACKS ISSUED IN CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

50X1-HUM

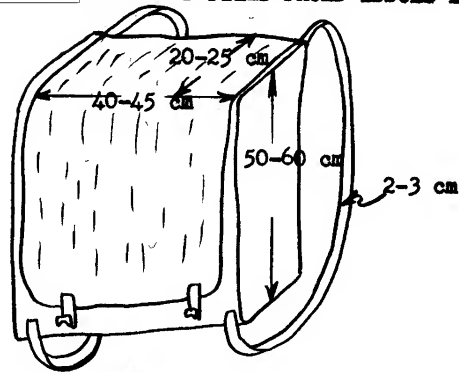


Figure 1

Czechoslovak Type Field Pack

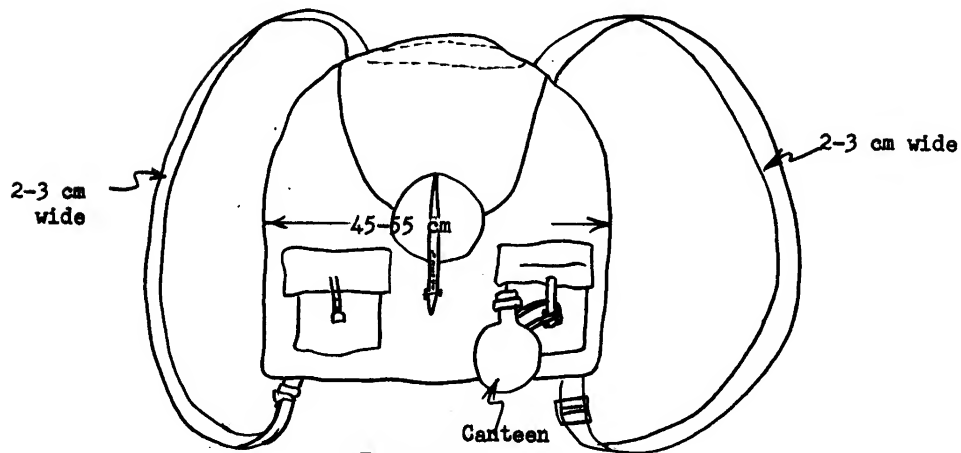


Figure 2

German Type Field Pack

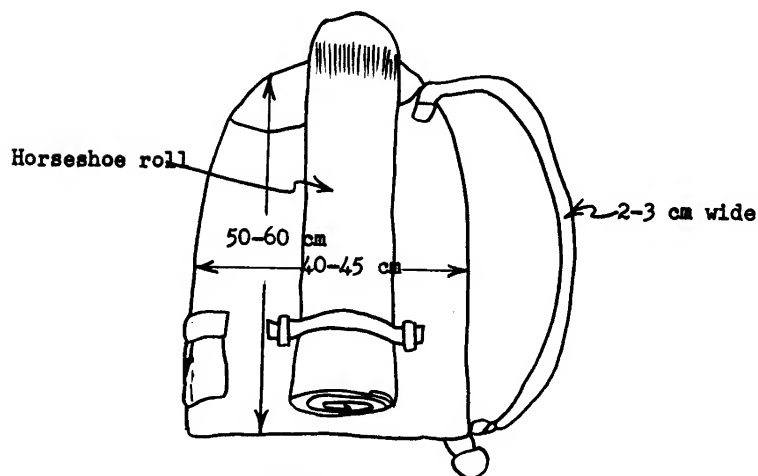


Figure 3

Side View of German Field Pack

50X1-HUM

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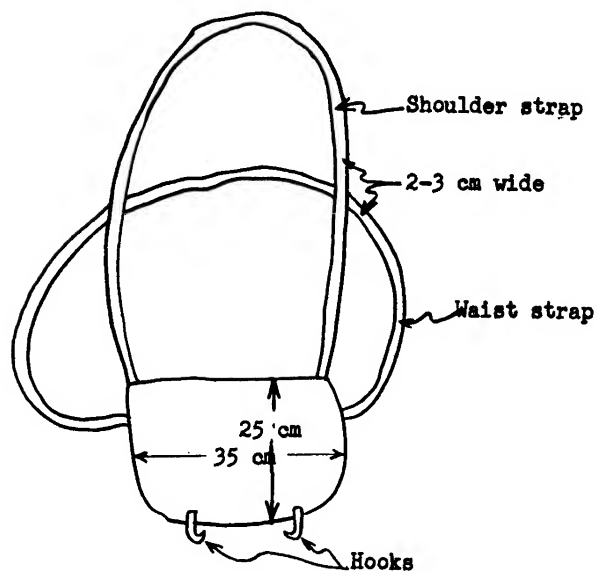
-24-

Annex H

50X1-HUM

SKETCH OF UTILITY PACK ISSUED IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

50X1-HUM



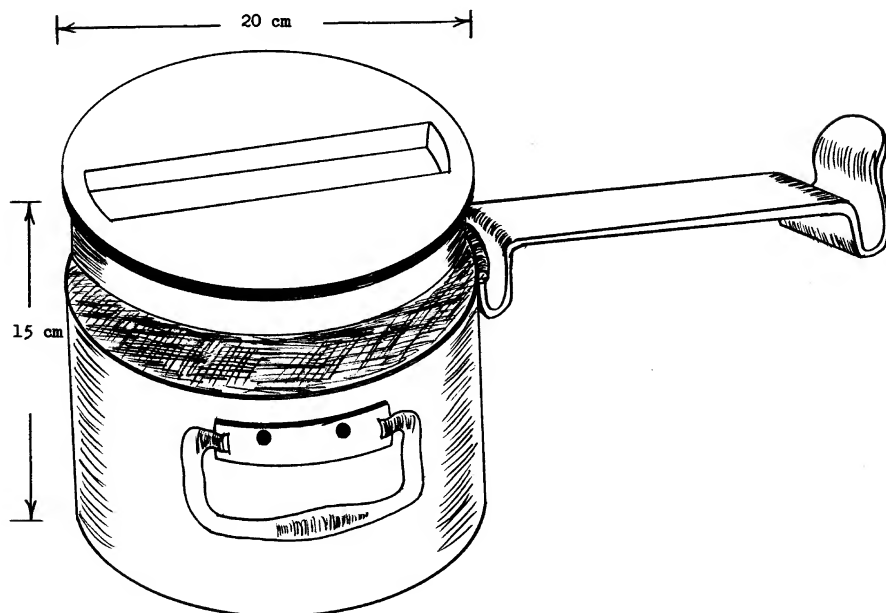
Utility Bag Issued in the Czechoslovak Army

50X1-HUM

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Annex I

SKETCH OF A CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY MESSKIT



50X1-HUM

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Annex J

SKETCH OF SHELTER HALVES ISSUED IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY

50X1-HUM

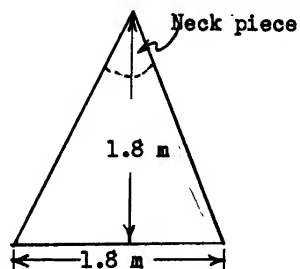


Figure 1

German Shelter Half

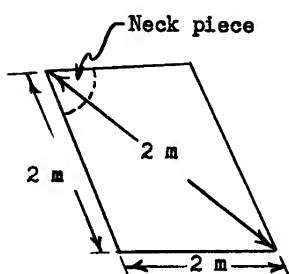


Figure 2

Soviet Shelter Half

50X1-HUM

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